

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A L O O K
BACK AT

August 2021

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

August began with lingering monsoonal moisture bringing afternoon thunderstorms, but dried out after a few days. Dense smoke from West Coast wildfires then moved into the region in association with high pressure, leading to poor air quality and low visibility for several days. Temperatures were above normal through the middle of the month. Monsoonal moisture returned for the second half of the month, with more daily showers and thunderstorms. An unusually strong low pressure combined with the moisture to bring rainfall to the area on August 19th and 20th. Widespread rainfall totals of more than 0.75 inches were recorded, with amounts up to 1.5 inches in some areas, as well as the first mountain snow of the year. High pressure returned for the end of the month, with near normal temperatures and wildfire smoke.

August was either drier or wetter than normal depending on where you were across the region as 6 of the 10 automated stations found at airports across E UT/W CO ended the month with above normal precipitation. August was generally near normal for most of the region with mean temperatures ranging anywhere from 1 degree above to 1 degree below normal.



August 2021

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas August have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

PAGE #	PAGE TITLE
1	Cover
2	Table of Contents
3	Story of the Month
4	Temperatures
5	Precipitation
6	Total Monthly Precipitation
7	Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal
8	Daily Records Report
9	Drought Conditions as of September 7 TH
10	September Outlook

STORY OF THE MONTH

19-20 August FIRST SNOW

An anomalously strong low pressure system combined with a surge of monsoonal moisture near the end month to bring widespread rainfall and much cooler temperatures. The high terrain of Colorado even saw its first snow of the season, with the Grand Mesa accumulating 1 - 2 inches! Lower elevations across western Colorado saw much needed rainfall, with up to 1.5 inches falling in some spots, and widespread totals of greater than 0.75 inches.



Green is Mountain Snow (Credit:)



**Snow on the Grand Mesa
(Credit: CDOT)**

A u g u s t
2 0 2 1

TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	63.6 (+0.3)	89 on 8/12	36 on 8/20
Cortez, CO	70.4 (+0.5)	94 on 8/6, 10, 13	44 on 8/8, 25
Craig, CO	65.8 (-0.5)	96 on 8/14	37 on 8/25
Durango, CO	68.1 (+0.6)	91 on 8/28-29	42 on 8/21
Grand Junction, CO	76.5 (+0.2)	100 on 8/6	49 on 8/20
Meeker, CO	65.6 (-1.2)	93 on 8/13-14	39 on 8/21
Montrose, CO	71.9 (+0.5)	95 on 8/13	45 on 8/20
Rifle, CO	71.8 (+0.5)	99 on 8/13	44 on 8/20
Canyonlands Airport, UT	77.8 (-0.2)	101 on 8/13	50 on 8/20
Vernal, UT	71.5 (-0.3)	96 on 8/13-14	49 on 8/19-20



A u g u s t
2 0 2 1

PRECIPITATION



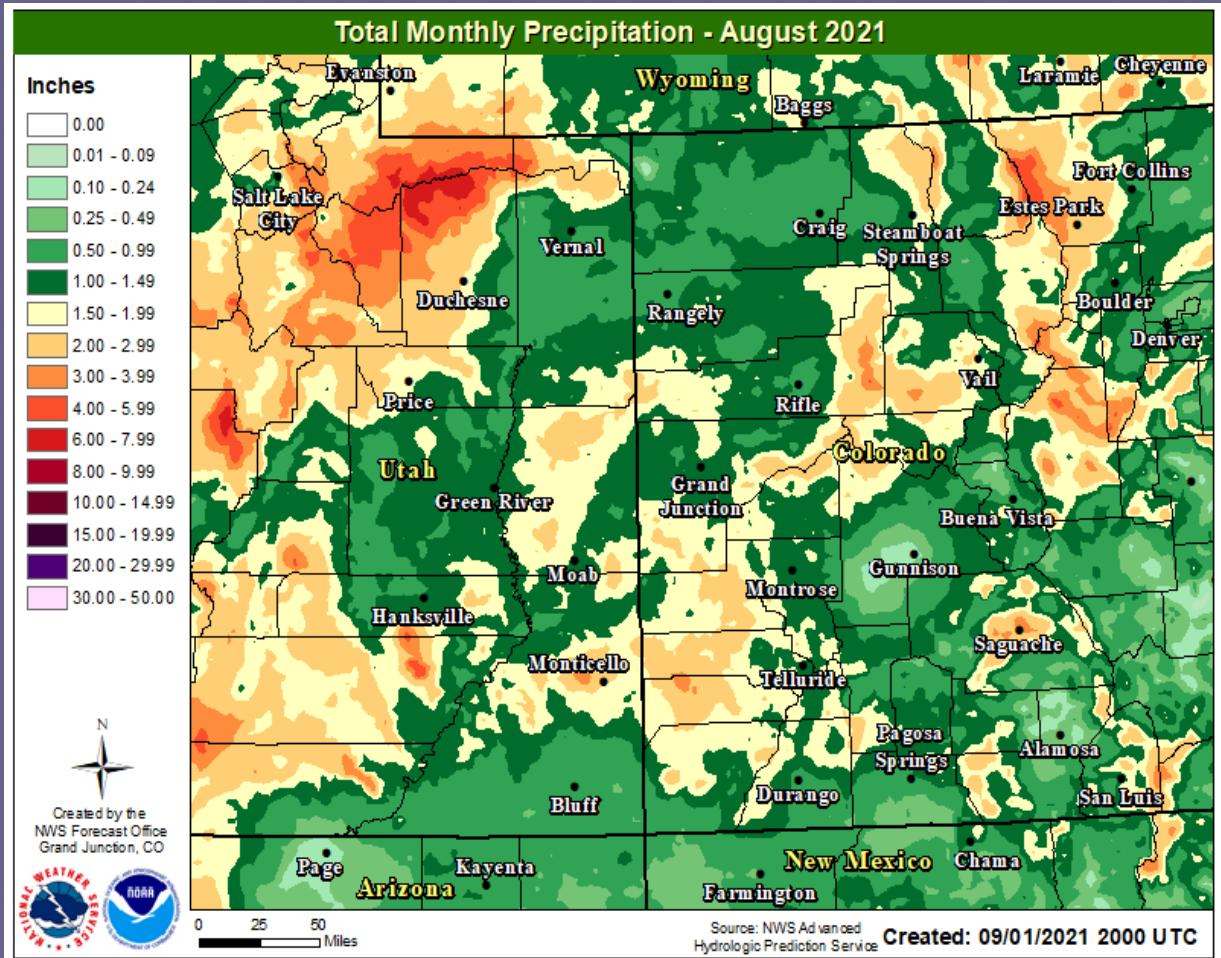
Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	2.02	+0.54
Cortez, CO	1.73	+0.14
Craig, CO	0.87	-0.10
Durango, CO	0.63	-0.74
Grand Junction, CO	1.55	+0.63
Meeker, CO	1.01	-0.32
Montrose, CO	1.57	+0.67
Rifle, CO	0.80	-0.27
Canyonlands Airport, UT	2.15	+1.52
Vernal, UT	0.94	+0.18

August 2021

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



August 2021

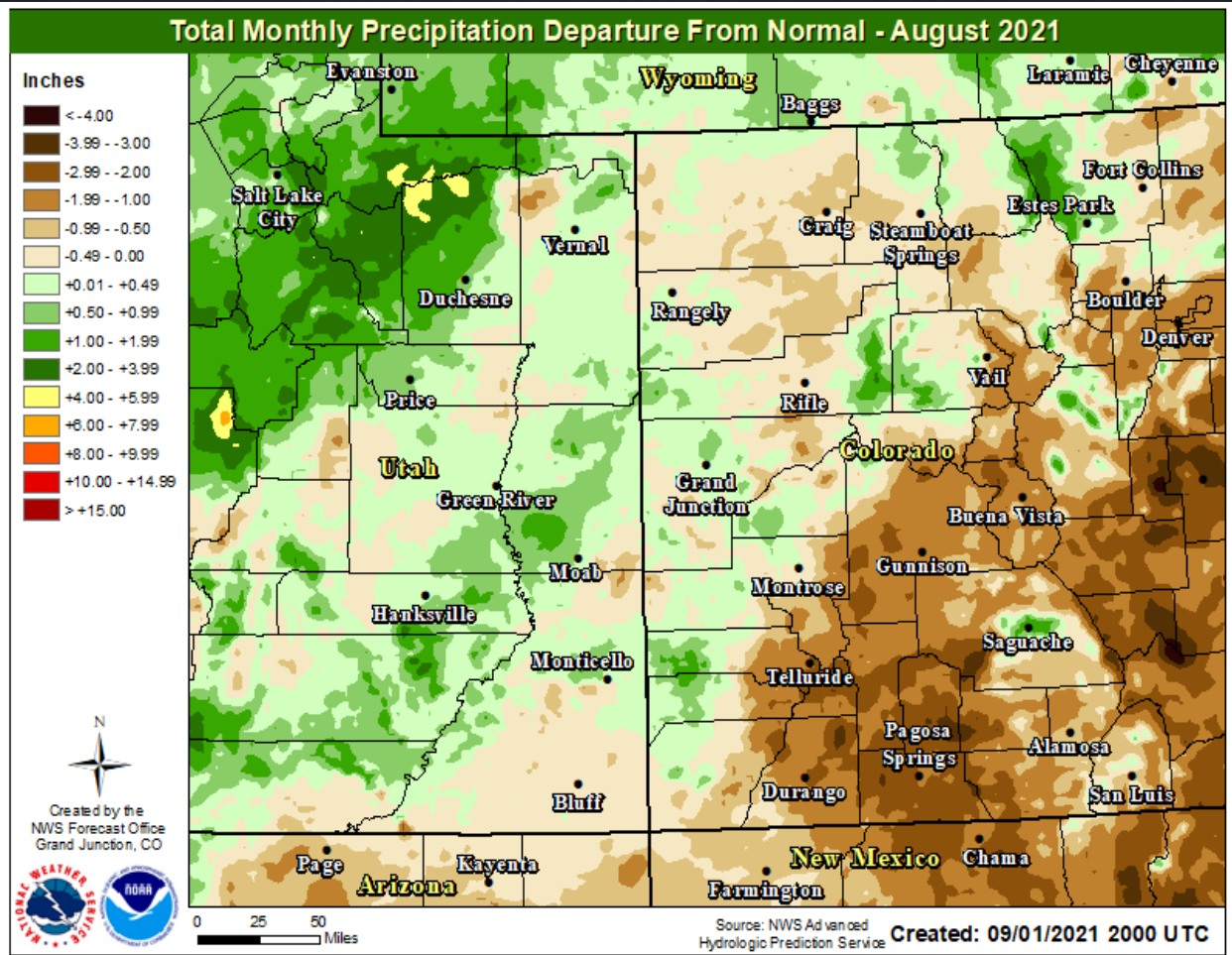
CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL
MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



August 2021

CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY RECORDS **R E P O R T**

A total of 2 daily records were set across the primary climate sites

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	August 18th	Daily Rainfall Max	0.47 inches	0.26 inches in 1989
Grand Junction, CO	August 19th	Daily Rainfall Max	0.93 inches	0.60 inches in 1925

High Max

Low Max

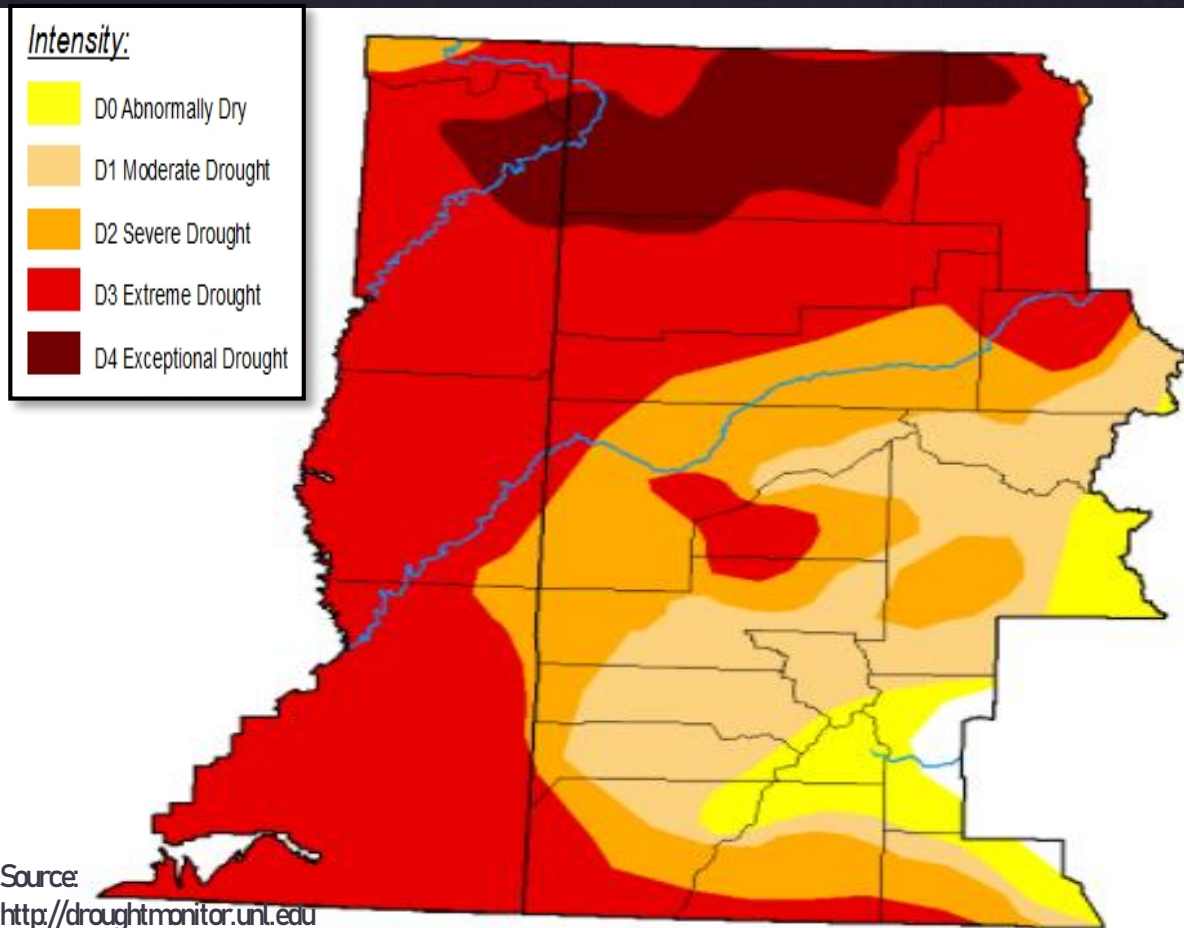
Precip

High Min

Low Min



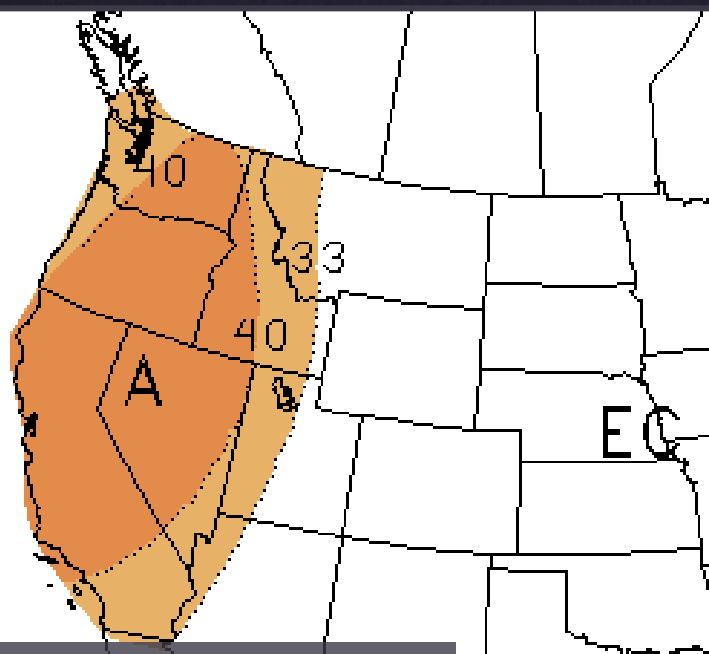
Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought conditions persisted across the majority of eastern Utah and northwest Colorado throughout August. An exception was across southwest Colorado where the drought continued to improve and ranged from the severe (D2) to abnormally dry (D0) category.



SEPTEMBER
2 0 2 1

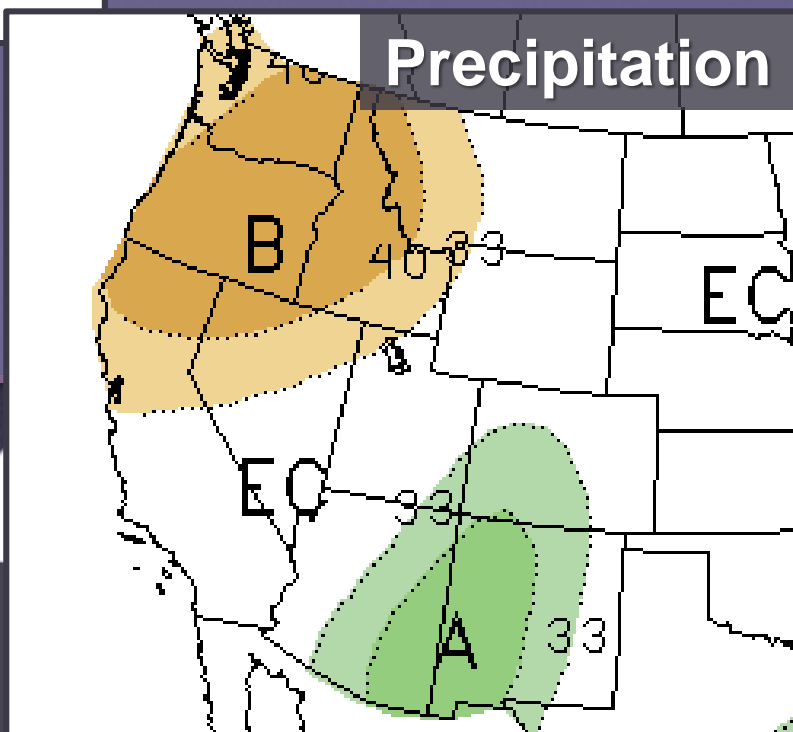
OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



Temperatures

For September, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring above normal precipitation for west central and southwest Colorado, with lesser confidence elsewhere. With regards to temperatures, guidance does not favor either above or below normal at this time.



Precipitation